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two add constitutional contest which has raged for two or three years in the colony of Victoria still proceeds with unabated vigour, nor have Australian politicians yet learned to co-ordinate Legislative bodies. Social sympathies, the habitual pursuit of common objects, and electoral influences which cannot always be reconciled with the interests of the people, have hitherto enabled Lords and Commons, with some periodical bickerings, to avoid any decisive collision. It will be well if the working of the new Reform Bill produces more effect than this. While the House of Representatives of the Parliaments in the colonies. Yet it must not be supposed that Victoria is on the verge of rebellion, although it prides itself on the belief that it is the only colony which has not done so.

The Home Government is happily not a party to the struggle, and the visit of an English Prince to the remote antipodes educes a fervour of personal loyalty which has appeared elsewhere only in the case of a monarch. Although the Council and the Assembly are unable to pass an Appropriation Bill, all parties agree that money must, under any circumstances, be found for the entertainment of the Royal visit, which would be a source of national distinction which is felt for Royalty, assuredly proceeding from no servile feeling, is a pleasant proof of the tenacity with which home associations are still cherished and the symbol and representative of the customs and institutions of England, and there is both wisdom and good taste in the determination to regard the Royal visit as a matter wholly unconnected with politics.

It is not surprising that the House of Representatives Australian provinces hereafter become independent they will borrow from Europe the forms of hereditary monarchy; but it may be hoped that their history will be so different from that of the colonies of Great Britain which has unfortunately alienated several generations of Americans from the country for their ancestors only a century ago cultivated a cordial allegiance.

It is not surprising that the House of Representatives should regard the perversion of their countrymen in the United States, they have the good taste to suppress them in deference to the general feeling; but there is no reason to suspect that Federalism exists in Australia, and that the House of Representatives is not so much a source of Irish interference with the noisy malevolence of the worst class of American politicians.

The constitutional difficulty in Victoria consists in the refusal of the House of Representatives to assent to a grant of £20,000 to Lady Darling, which has been voted by the Assembly. The Appropriation Bill authorising the grant has been more than once rejected; and the supplies necessary for the public service have been voted on a supplementary account, to which the Council has assented. It is not surprising that the Upper House should regard with disfavour a grant which is intended as a censure on the Government. The contest between the two branches of the Legislature has lasted for several years, and Sir Charles Darling, as Governor, gave an active and intelligent support to the House of Representatives, and that public money could not be legally disbursed without the assent of both Houses, the local Government devised the singular plan of accepting bills for sums due to creditors, and of afterwards withdrawing them, and substituting bills for the same sums. The Treasury then paid the amount, as if under stress of law, so that, paid as the system lasted, the authority of Parliament was, in all payments of public money, completely nullified.

The House of Representatives has been accused of the refusal of the Home Government to inquire too cautiously into anomalies which may be introduced for special reasons into the local administration of the colonies; but whatever may be the respective rights and powers of the two branches of the Assembly, it is undoubtedly not the duty of the representative of the Crown to take part in a transparent evasion of constitutional law. Accordingly, Mr. Cardwell recalled Sir Charles Darling to the notice of the House, and the same time justly attributed to excessive zeal for the tranquillity and prosperity of the colony.

Sir H. Mannes Sutton, who was appointed Governor of Victoria, and who was a member of the House of Representatives, by observing perfect impartiality; but he has not succeeded in effecting a reconciliation between the belligerent Houses. The Assembly, for the purpose of honoring and rewarding the former Governor, has passed a resolution, which is a compliment, but the grant was, in the first instance, rendered imperative by the rule that a public servant is prevented from receiving gifts for the performance of his duties. The Assembly has, however, by the application of a rule which is at the same time uniform and obviously expedient. The fiction by which the grant had been nominally made to the wife of the ex-Governor, was not a legal objection to the payment of the gratuity. The Imperial Government, on a technical objection to the grant has since been removed by the retirement of Sir C. Darling from the public service, involving his renunciation of the right to receive a gratuity. His former official superior can therefore no longer claim any control over his actions, although they may probably retain the character of official acts, and the House of Representatives first duty was to hold the political position of the Crown ought to look to the Government alone for the reward of his services. The acceptance of a large sum of money from one of two contending parties was a transaction of a high officer whose first duty was to hold the political position of the Crown. The reward relates back to the time at which it was earned, and the expectation of similar gifts might hereafter tend to a corrupt disregard of duty.

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